

Sexual exploitation of mentally challenged girls

CJ treats letter as PIL; one more arrested, another remanded to PC

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 6: In a significant development in the sexual exploitation of mentally challenged girls, Chief Justice of State High Court, Justice M M Kumar has treated the letter written by a visually impaired advocate on the inhuman act as Public Interest Litigation and directed the Registry to list the same before the Division Bench on September 9.

In the meantime, Special Municipal Magistrate Jammu, V S Bhou granted eight days police remand of Chowkidar of Rotary Inner Wheel Home for Mentally Challenged Children, Angad Kumar, son of Sat Pal, who is allegedly involved in sexual exploitation of the mentally challenged girls.

Trikuta Nagar Police, which is investigating the case, has also arrested Surjeet Kumar, former Chowkidar-cum-Peon, son of Bhola Ram of Nowshera for his involvement in the gruesome incident.

CEO Prasar Bharati meets Governor

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 6: Jawhar Sircar, Chief Executive Officer, Prasar Bharati, called on N. N. Vohra, Governor at the Raj Bhavan here this evening.

During their meeting, the Governor and the CEO Prasar Bharati discussed a number of important issues relating to the strengthening of the All India Radio and Doordarshan Kendras in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly with a view to serving the extensive population which resides in the border and remote areas in the hinterland of the State.

Mr. Sircar briefed the Governor about the current and future plans about the expansion and upgradation of Radio and Doordarshan net-

work in the State. The Governor emphasized the need for all the required measures being taken within a time limited framework to strengthen and expand AIR and Doordarshan services in all the three regions of the State.

The Governor's meeting with Sircar follows the Governor having some time ago addressed Manish Tewari, Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, to stress, inter alia, the need for the requisite steps being taken to strengthen AIR and Doordarshan services in the State, besides ensuring optimum utilization of the available infrastructure.

B. B. Pandit, Member Finance, Prasar Bharati, participated in the discussions.

including him, who himself is visually disabled.

"The investigation of the case is at initial stages and there is every likelihood that those involved in this gruesome exploitation of mentally challenged girls will try to derail the investigation and for ensuring fair, impartial and speedy investigation the same is required to be monitored by the High Court so that whosoever high he or she may be the law must be allowed to take its own course", Advocate Suraj Singh said.

The letter further said, "the victims in this case are mentally challenged girls and not in a position to project their grievances and in order to ensure complete justice to such a disadvantaged class there is a dire need for investigation being monitored by the High Court".

Advocate Surat Singh has also sought directions to the Jammu Police for fair/impartial investigation into the case to provide justice to the mentally challenged girls.

After going through the letter, Chief Justice M M Kumar treated the same as Public Interest Litigation (PIL) and directed the Registry to list the same before Division Bench on September 9.

Vigilance books SSA officials

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH (LADAKH), Sept 6: Vigilance Organization Kashmir has booked officials of Directorate Sarva Shiksha Abhyas (SSA) for using substandard material in construction of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalya Hostel at Nayoma, Leh in 2009.

This was stated in an official handout issued here today. It said on the basis of report received from DC Leh, the Vigilance Organization Kashmir has registered a case

50 ceasefire violations in a month

After 3 days lull, Pak again opens firing along LoC

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 6: After a lull of three days, Pakistan Army today again pounded forward posts and civilian areas in Balakote and Mendhar sectors of Poonch district using small to medium fire arms and mortar shells. The Indian side gave an effective response to the firing, leading to heavy exchanges for about two hours.

Official sources told the

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Excelsior that Pakistan Army first started firing from their Goga Post opposite Balakote sector targeting three forward Indian posts in Peer Baba area at 4.50 pm. Five to seven mortar shells landed in the area in a span of 20 minutes.

Troops of 637 Mujahideen Regiment of Pakistan deployed across Balakote sector continued firing for about two hours prompting the Indian side to retaliate. The response of Indian Army was very effective, they said.

Simultaneously, Pakistani posts of Dabsi Centre, Dabsi Forward, Dabsi Rear and Cheel under the area of 650 Mujahideen Regiment rained bullet and shells on four forward Indian posts in Poona area falling between Balakote and Mendhar. The Indian side fired back.

Heavy firing lasted till 7 pm. Thereafter, intensity of the firing was reduced and only small fire arms were used from across the LoC. The Indian side also toned down its response.

This was 50th ceasefire violation by Pakistan Army in the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri and Jammu sector in the past one month after hostilities between India and Pakistan increased after the killing of five Indian Army jawans in Sarla battalion area at Chakan-Da-Bagh on the intervening nights of August 5 and 6 in Poonch district.

Apart from five Army jawans, a BSF soldier was also killed in Pakistan firing on the International Border (IB) in Jammu sector while nine civilians have been injured in shelling by the Pakistan Army.

Sources said Pakistan Army has also suffered heavy losses in retaliatory firing by the Indian troops.

The last ceasefire violation by Pakistan Army was reported on September 3 at Shahpur and Kermi in Poonch and Kaiyan in Mandi sector in which a civilian was seriously injured in shelling. Twelve goats of the civilian were also killed as a shell had exploded close to his house.

There had been reports that Pakistan Army was also trying to facilitate infiltration of the militants from across the LoC under the cover of firing. Over 150 militants were stated to have moved very close to the launching pads for infiltration into this side but the troops have effectively thwarted their plot.

The militants during past one month have made several infiltration attempts along the LoC in twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch but haven't succeeded, sources said, adding the troops were maintaining a very high alert on the LoC to thwart intrusion plans of the militants.

Amarnath tents scam: Accused threaten complainants as Police delays action

Nishikant Khajuria

JAMMU, Sept 6: Even after more than a month since submission of detailed preliminary investigation report by an officer of DySP rank with a direction to the concern Station House Officer for registration of FIR against the officers accused of committing brazen irregularities in permission for tents at the Amarnath Yatra Base Camp in Sheshnag and Pahalgam, the Police authorities are allegedly delaying action.

On the other hand, the accused officers of district administration are allegedly pressuring the complainants and even threatening of police harassment if the latter do not withdraw complaint against them.

In what appears to be a nexus between the concerned police officers and the accused, soon after a threatening call by the main accused, who is an officer of ACR rank, some cops raided the house of president Tent Union Sheshnag, Mohd Shafi summoning him to the Police Station.

"Yesterday morning, I received a phone call by the ACR who abused me and threatened of dire consequences for my witness in the tents permission scam and in the very afternoon, my house was raided by several policemen looking for me without any search warrant," Mohd Shafi said explaining he along with other complainants were under severe pressure from different quarters to withdraw their complaints and earlier statements, recorded before the Magistrate.

As reported by the Excelsior, a big scam involving large scale corruption had surfaced in permissions for erecting tents at the Yatra Base Camp in Sheshnag, Pahalgam following some complaints by the tent owners. Preliminary investigations by police on the basis of seized records and statement virtually established the involvement of officers of district administration Anantnag, who allegedly issued permissions on forged documents, without verifications and necessary formalities after accepting bribe money from the applicants.

However, even after more than a month since submission of detailed preliminary investigations report by the Zonal Officer Sheshnag Base Camp, Dy SP Ajay Sharma to the higher authorities, no further action has yet been taken in the case while the

accused are threatening the complainants. When contacted, SSP Anantnag Ramesh Kumar Yalla said that police was still verifying the preliminary investigation report and it would take at least one week more for a decision on further action. Regarding threatening calls by the accused to complainants, the SSP claimed that he was not aware of any such development.

Ironically, the Governor House as well as Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, which were earlier monitoring the progress on permission scam, are also in dark over the fate of case and police inaction.

According to official sources in Raj Bhawan, the case was being monitored by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Shailendra Kumar who said that he was awaiting Police report.



Co-ordination Committee members reviewing Indian Science Congress arrangements in a meeting on Friday.

Co-ordination Committee reviews Indian Science Congress arrangements

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 6: To review the arrangements for 101st Indian Science Congress, a high level meeting of the Co-ordination Committee of the mega event was held here today.

Prof R C Sobti, general president, Indian Science Congress Association and Vice-Chancellor, Baba Sahib Ambedkar University, Lucknow along with Er V M Trehan, Prof I J S Bansal and Prof Ashok Saxena attended the meeting, which was presided over by JU Vice-Chancellor Prof M P S Ishar.

Giving details, Prof Sobti said that Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and President, ISCA will inaugurate the mega event and more than 10,000 scientist from all over the world are likely to participate and present papers in the five-day long event.

The meeting discussed in detail the main activities of the event comprising of inaugural ceremony, Women Science Congress, Children Science Congress, Science Exhibition, Science Communicators Meet, Book Exhibition, Valedictory Function, and decisions regarding setting up

of Media Center for daily briefing issuing of special bulletin and special interview reservation counters for booking of Rail, Air and Bus tickets, Cyber Café, Temporary Mobile network center etc were also taken.

The meet decided that around 7,000 delegates will be accommodated in Jammu and 3,000 at Katra. It was also announced that the next meeting for holding of ISCA Council/Executive Body meeting and interaction with sectional heads of the event will be held on October 4 this year.

Prof Sobti said that the event is going to be inter-state where the presence of VIPs comprising of Chief Minister and Governor of Punjab and Governor of Uttar Pradesh will be witnessed in the inaugural function while the Vice-President Hamid Ansari will be present in the valedictory function.

Among others present in the meeting were Prof Manoj Dhar, Registrar, University of Jammu, Prof Naresh Padha and Prof Meena Sharma Local Secretaries of the event, Conveners of the Various Committees, Jai Kumar Sharma, Special Secretary to the VC and Dr Jitender Khajuria, Joint Registrar.

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